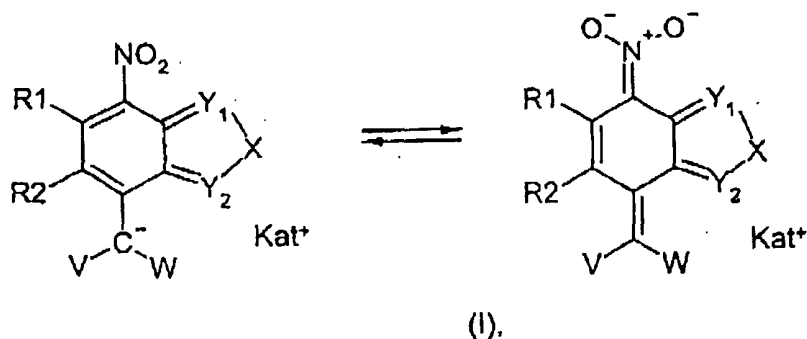


**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice and add the following claims 11 to 19:

11(new). A 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur;

Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> each represent a nitrogen atom;

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, a substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup> group, the R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkane carbonyl group;

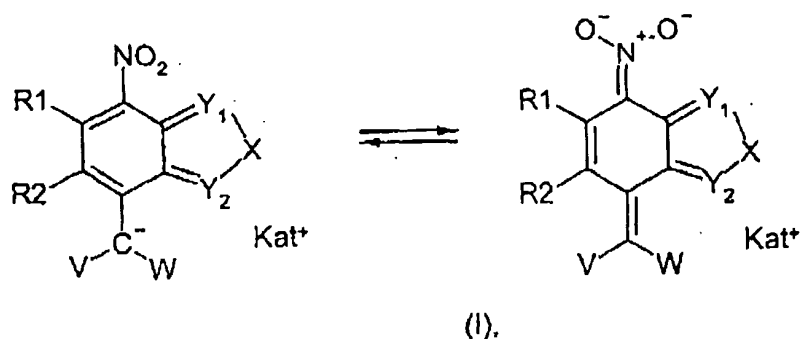
V represents hydrogen, an aliphatic group, an aromatic isocyclic group, a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>3</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group;

W represents a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> representing hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group; and Kat<sup>+</sup> represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group.

12(new). The compound as defined in claim 11, wherein said R<sub>1</sub> and said R<sub>2</sub>, independently of one another, each represent said hydrogen, said halogen atom, said (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group or said nitro group.

13(new). A 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound selected from the group consisting of 4-(dicyanomethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(1-cyano-2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(cyano-(4-nitrophenyl)-methyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(dicyanomethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole-N-oxide sodium salt, 4-(1-cyano-3,3-dimethyl-2-oxobutyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(bis(methoxycarbonyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(carboxycyanomethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(2-ethoxy-1-nitro-2-oxoethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-((amino-carbonyl)cyanomethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(1-cyano-2-oxo-2-phenylethyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt and 4-(cyano-(2-nitrophenyl)-methyl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt.

14(new). An agent for dyeing keratin fibers, wherein the agent contains at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur;

$Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  each represent a nitrogen atom;

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, a substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup> group, the R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkane carbonyl group;

V represents hydrogen, an aliphatic group, an aromatic isocyclic group, a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>3</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group; W represents a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> representing hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group,

a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group; and Kat<sup>+</sup> represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group.

15(new). The agent as defined in claim 14, containing from 0.01 to 10 percent by weight of said at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I) .

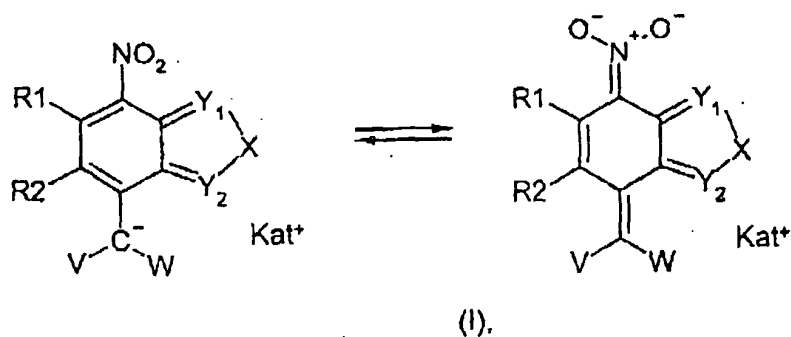
16(represented — formerly dependent claim 7). The agent as defined in claim 14, containing at least one substantive dye ingredient selected from the group consisting of anionic dyes, cationic dyes, nonionic dyes, amphoteric dyes, nitro dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinone dyes and dispersion dyes.

17(represented — formerly dependent claim 8). The agent as defined in claim 14, containing at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of natural polymers, synthetic polymers and modified polymers of natural origin and wherein said at least one polymer is a shade fastener or color fastener.

18(represented -- formerly dependent claim 9). The agent as defined in claim 14, consisting of a hair-dyeing agent.

19(new). A method of dyeing hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent for dyeing hair containing at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur;

$Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  each represent a nitrogen atom;

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, a substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup> group, the R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkane carbonyl group;

V represents hydrogen, an aliphatic group, an aromatic isocyclic group, an aromatic heterocyclic group, a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>3</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group;

W represents a cyano group or a carbonyl function (CO)-R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> representing hydrogen, a hydroxy group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkoxy group, an amino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-alkylamino group, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)-alkyl group or an aryl group; and

Kat<sup>+</sup> represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group;

b) applying the agent to the hair in an amount sufficient for the dyeing of

the hair, depending on an amount of the hair to be dyed;

c) allowing the agent applied in step b) to act on the hair at from 15° to 45°C for about 1 to 60 minutes; and

d) then rinsing the hair, optionally washing the hair with a shampoo and subsequently drying the hair.